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Saxifraga x urbium

[Synonyms : *Saxifraga umbrosa*]

LONDON PRIDE is a hybrid evergreen perennial. Found in western Europe it has numerous small, pink flowers.

It is also known as Bear's ear, *D'l'ordgi* (Channel Islander-Jersey Norman-French), French mignonette, Kiss-me-quick, Leaf of St. Patrick, *Lomikameň* (Slovak), *Lomikámen městský* (Czech), Look-up-and-kiss-me, Look-up-and-kiss-me-at-the-garden-gate, Nancy-pretty, None-so-pretty, *Porlinsbräcka* (Swedish), Prattling parnell, Queen Anne's needlework, Queen's cushion, Sailor plant, St. Anne's needlework, St. Patrick's cabbage, *Schildersverdriet* (Dutch), Sengreen, and Whimsey; and in flower language is said to be a symbol of frivolity.

Urbium is derived from Latin *urbs* (city) meaning 'of or from towns'.

The plant's history is viewed by authorities as a little uncertain in Britain as in the 17th Century a spotted variety of Sweet-William (*Dianthus barbatus* in the *Caryophyllaceae* family) was called Pride of London and references in records could thus be confusing. It is thought however that London pride (this species) was being cultivated in Britain by that period. Others have suggested that its common name is only of recent origin as it was one of the plants that clothed the bombed sites that littered London in the 1940s during World War II.

It is the birthday flower for 27th July.